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HONORING JOHN MATSUSHIMA

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Matsushima, who will be honored as a Citizen of the West at the National Western Stock Show this coming January. This prestigious award has been presented since 1978, and the selected recipient must embody the spirit and determination of the Western pioneer who is committed to perpetuating the West's agricultural heritage and ideals. I can think of no better person to receive this honor than Dr. Matsushima.

Now 91 years old, he has dedicated his life to teaching others about agriculture and livestock. He began teaching in 1961 at Colorado State University, and he continued to enrich the lives of students until his retirement in 1992. Dr. Matsushima currently holds the title of professor emeritus at Colorado State University, and still spends significant time on campus as an adviser to those who will be future stewards of agriculture.

Among his many honors and awards, Dr. Matsushima received the Japan Emperor award in 2009 and was the first Japanese American to achieve this accomplishment. He has also received national and Colorado 4-H Club awards, the Colorado State University Livestock Leader award, and Colorado State's Best Teacher award.

He is a true pioneer who has committed his life's work to Colorado and to the Western United States. These stories highlight an amazing man, and I am proud to honor Dr. Matsushima on the House floor.

MAINTAIN THE C-130 FLEET

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, this week, conferees met to reach an agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act. As we consider a final agreement, I rise in support of language in the conference report which prevents the movement and retirement of C-130 aircraft.

Madam Speaker, western New York is home to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, which hosts a robust fleet of C-130 aircraft. These aircraft were among the planes used to deliver supplies to the regions of New York and New Jersey in the aftermath of hurricane devastation. Additionally, these western New York aircraft flew over 1,500 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Representatives KATHLEEN HOCHUL, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and I wrote to the conferees on this important issue, and we are pleased that the committee agreed to keep in language in the House-passed bill to maintain the C-130 fleet. I encourage the House to support

the conference report language that will maintain the C-130 fleet.

THE TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN,
CONNECTICUT

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the sorrow I feel about the tragedy that happened in Newtown, Connecticut, last Friday.

I have a personal connection with Newtown. After being transferred from Texas, my parents were sent to Connecticut, to the corporate headquarters of my father's company. They bought a home in Newtown. My brother graduated from Newtown High School. I would go to Newtown for the holidays. I have driven past Sandy Hook Elementary School—the place where 20 innocent children and six adults were killed by a madman.

As a parent, I cannot imagine the pain the families who lost a child are feeling. From my brief time in Newtown, I saw that it was a true community with strong people. They will go forward, but they need our thoughts, our prayers, and our love.

May God bless them and help them find peace.

MEDICARE IDENTITY THEFT
PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, today the House will consider the Medicare Identity Theft Prevention Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it this afternoon.

Despite actions taken by this House and Federal agencies, Medicare identity theft continues to be a problem. Medicare's own inspector general issued a report stating that more than a quarter-million Medicare beneficiaries are potential victims of identity theft. This is simply unacceptable.

The bill we will consider today makes a commonsense change to Medicare cards that most seniors carry. It will ensure that, in the future, Social Security numbers are not displayed or embedded on these cards, which are issued to every Medicare beneficiary.

Seniors spend their whole lives building financial security for their retirement years. They shouldn't have to worry about losing it if someone steals one's Medicare card.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BOB
MORTON, AN EASTERN WASH-
INGTON LEGEND

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. It is with great pride that I rise today to

honor the tremendous service and career of Bob Morton, a 22-year veteran of the Washington State Legislature, who recently announced that he was going to be retiring at the end of the year.

He was first elected to the House in 1990, and then he was appointed to the Senate, where he currently represents the Seventh District, including Pend Oreille, Ferry, Stevens, and parts of Okanogan and Spokane Counties. He owned a small logging business and ran cattle while also preaching at his local church and serving the community.

But Bob is not just an outstanding legislator for eastern Washington; he is also a close friend, a mentor, and the reason that I got into politics and public service in the first place.

As an elected official, I've worked with him on countless issues, and his advice and friendship have been invaluable. He is recognized for his leadership and knowledge of forest health and good forest management. No one knows Western water law better than Bob, and he has participated in most of the negotiations over Washington water law.

Bob and his wife, Linda, have five children and 11 grandchildren, and I know they're looking forward to spending more time with them in their retirement. I wish them the best in their next adventures.

SUPERSTORM SANDY DISASTER
ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly 8 weeks since Superstorm Sandy struck our shores and devastated an entire region. It has been 8 weeks, and Congress has yet to send a disaster assistance package to the affected States.

It is precedent for this body to stand together in the aftermath of a natural disaster and to immediately provide the necessary assistance in order to help communities recover and rebuild. Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast, Congress approved more than \$62 billion in Federal aid. One month after Hurricanes Ike and Gustav hit Texas, Congress approved more than \$20 billion in aid.

Why can't this Congress come together and approve the \$60 billion requested by the President to help the victims of Sandy? The damage done by Sandy is far beyond the resources and capacity that any single State possesses to recover on its own.

It is my hope that this Chamber can set aside its differences and swiftly approve the supplemental funding. Such assistance will aid those who have lost everything in the storm, and it will help to rebuild our communities stronger than ever. New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut have always stood by other regions of this Nation